

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /066 W
----- 091098 /21

P R 220955Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5880
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9684

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, GE, TU
SUBJECT: GDR - TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: (A) BERLIN 7269 (DTG 131546Z DEC 76) (NOTAL)
(B) ANKARA 9395 (DTG 101439Z DEC 76) (NOTAL)

1. ONE PURPOSE OF MY CALL ON MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL ELEKDAG
DECEMBER 21 WAS TO GET HIS COMMENTS REGARDING HIS VISIT TO
THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC DECEMBER 13-16. ELEKDAG
BEGAN HIS REPORT ON THE GDR TRIP WITH A DETAILED
RATIONALE FOR TURKEY'S SEEKING BETTER ECONOMIC AND TRADE
RELATIONS WITH EASTERN BLOC NATIONS. HE SAID THAT
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL CREDITS FROM
THE WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN TURKEY ARE "DRYING UP." HE ADDED THAT THE GOT HAS
NOT REPEAT NOT HAD MUCH SUCCESS, FOR EXAMPLE
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FROM A RECENT FRG
ECONOMIC AND TRADE MISSION AND OTHER WESTERN SOURCES,
IN ATTRACTING CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDS AS OPPOSED TO
CREDITS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR PRODUCING QUICK-PROFIT
CONSUMER GOODS. ALSO, TURKEY IS FACED WITH FORMIDABLE
AND GROWING PROBLEMS THAT CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY

MANAGED BY GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY, INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF 400,000 WORKERS TO THE ECONOMY ANNUALLY, FURTHER EXPANSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS SUCH AS POWER GENERATION, AND THE NEED TO GENERATE EXPORTS TO NEW MARKETS SUCH AS EASTERN EUROPE. AT THE SAME TIME, ELEKDAG ADDED, THE GOT HOPES TO USE SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN CREDITS TO EXPAND ITS BASIC INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY (E.G., IRON AND STEEL, ALUMINUM SMELTING, POWER PLANTS), POSSIBLY MODERNIZE SOME SECTORS OF TURKISH INDUSTRY (SUCH AS THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY WHICH MIGHT PRODUCE MORE SYNTHETICS FOR EUROPEAN CONSUMPTION), AND PICK UP SOME OF THE SLACK IN LABOR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES FROM THE LABOR-SHORT EAST EUROPEANS.

2. REGARDING SPECIFIC PROJECTS DISCUSSED WITH THE EAST GERMANS, ELEKDAG SAID THAT THE GOT SUBMITTED "EIGHT OR NINE" PROJECTS FOR GDR CONSIDERATION IN ADVANCE OF HIS VISIT. WHILE HE DID NOT ENUMERATE THEM, ELEKDAG SAID THAT THE EAST GERMANS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POWER GENERATING PLANTS, MACHINE TOOL PRODUCTION, AND PROCESSING LIGNITE COAL INTO BRIQUETS FOR HEAT PRODUCTION. (IN THE LAST CONNECTION, ELEKDAG SAID THAT HE VISITED THE CITY OF COTTBUS WHERE THE EAST GERMANS HAVE A PLANT FOR PROCESSING LIGNITE COAL INTO BRIQUETS THAT ALLEGEDLY PRODUCE TWICE THE HEAT AS THE RAW COAL. ELEKDAG ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN VISITING THE HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED "SHOWCASE" CITIES OF LEIPZIG AND DRESDEN.) HE SAID THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAD SCRUTINIZED THE GOT PROJECT LIST CAREFULLY AND THAT, AMONG OTHER GDR CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIALS, THE STATE SECRETARY FOR TRADE EVINced CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN PROCEEDING WITH SEVERAL PROJECTS UTILIZING GDR GOVERNMENT CREDITS. (THE TURKS HAD EARLIER INDICATED THEY WOULD CONSIDER GDR ASSISTANCE ON THE BASIS OF CONCESSIONARY COMMERCIAL TERMS.) THE NEXT STEP, SAID ELEKDAG, IS FOR THE GOT TO REFINE ITS PROPOSALS ON THE BASIS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN THE GDR AND TO DETERMINE WHERE GDR CREDITS MIGHT BEST BE USED.

3. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, ELEKDAG SAID THAT THE PROPOSED GOT/GDR CONSULAR AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS. (NOTE: ELEKDAG IS UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT.) HE REPORTED THAT GDR OFFICIALS SEEMED STARTLED WHEN HE ASKED FOR COPIES OF CONSULAR AGREEMENTS THEY HAD CONCLUDED WITH OTHER NATIONS. THAT REQUEST IS NOW UNDER REVIEW. ELEKDAG ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS "VERY FRANK" IN HIS EXPRESSIONS OF TURKISH RESENTMENT OVER THE TWO GDR-BASED CLANDESTINE RADIOS WHICH BROAD-

CAST INTO TURKEY AS WELL AS OVER GDR SUPPORT FOR THE OUTLAWED TURKISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PARA 3 REFTEL B). EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS AVOIDED MAKING ANY COMMENT OR COMMITMENT ON THESE ISSUES, PROMISING ONLY THAT "THINGS WILL WORK OUT" WHEN GOT/GDR RELATIONS HAVE MATURED. (ELEKDAG COMMENTED THAT, OBVIOUSLY, GDR OFFICIALS DID NOT CONTROL THESE RADIOS. INSTEAD THEY TOOK THEIR INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THEM FROM THEIR SOVIET FRIENDS.)

4. REGARDING THE FRG AND WESTERN EUROPE, ELEKDAG COMMENTED THAT GDR OFFICIALS HAD AN ENORMOUS PREOCCUPATION WITH THE NEWS FROM WEST GERMANY AND ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED THERE. HE ALSO HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GDR WAS STAKING OUT A DEFENSIVE POSITION FOR THE FORTHCOMING BELGRADE ROUND OF CSCE TALKS. AS A COUNTER TO CHARGES THAT MIGHT BE LEVELLED AGAINST EAST GERMANY, GDR OFFICIALS MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE FRG HAD VIOLATED THE GDR FRONTIER "MORE THAN 600 TIMES" AND THAT THE FRG
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RESTRICTED THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS FROM WEST TO EAST GERMANY, THUS THREATENING DETENTE AND THE HELSINKI PRINCIPLES.

5. SUMMARIZING, ELEKDAG SAID THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE EAST GERMANS WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN OFFERING CREDITS FOR SELECTED INDUSTRIAL AND SIMILAR PROJECTS, MAKING UP FOR WHAT HE TERMED A WESTERN LACK OF INTEREST IN TURKEY'S INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT. NEVERTHELESS, HE EXPECTED NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TO BE MADE ON POLITICAL ISSUES BECAUSE, HE REPEATED, IT WAS HIS CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE EAST GERMANS WERE TAKING ORDERS FROM THE "BIG BOSS" IN MOSCOW ON MATTERS SUCH AS THE CLANDESTINE RADIOS AND SUPPORT FOR THE TURKISH COMMUNIST PARTY. HOWEVER, ELEKDAG CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS IN SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN INTEREST TO DEVELOP GOOD ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND, CONSIDERING THE NON-AVAILABILITY OF CREDITS FROM WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, IT WAS NOW IN TURKEY'S INTEREST TO RECIPROCATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TRADE, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA09684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760469-0651
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761218/aaaaappe.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERLIN 7269, 76 ANKARA 9395
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR - TURKISH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, GC, TU, (ELEKDAG, SUKRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006